

ON
NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 21st February 1880.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi"	Calcutta	2,100	
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	175	
3	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong	600	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto	11th February 1880.
5	"Rajshahye Samvād"	Rajshahye	31	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta	700	17th ditto.
7	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto	13th ditto.
8	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh	671	10th ditto.
9	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	2,000	
10	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Bardwān	296	10th ditto.
11	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	350	15th ditto.
12	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	745	13th ditto.
13	"Hindu Hitaishini"	Dacca	300	14th ditto.
14	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	16th ditto.
15	"Howrah Hitakari"	Bethar, Howrah	400	
16	"Medini"	Midnapore	250	11th ditto.
17	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Berhampore	
18	"Navavibhakar"	Calcutta	850	16th ditto.
19	"Pratikar"	Berhampore	275	
20	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākiniā, Rangpore	250	12th ditto.
21	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah	500	15th ditto.
22	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	9th ditto.
23	"Samālochak"	Ditto	1,000	13th ditto.
24	"Samāchār Sār"	Allahabad	350	
25	"Sanjivani"	Mymensingh	260	
26	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta	4,000	14th ditto.
27	"Shārad Kaumudī"	Bhowanipore	300	
28	"Srihatta Prakāsh"	Sylhet	440	9th ditto.
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>				
29	"Samāchār Sudhāvarshan"	Calcutta	
<i>Daily.</i>				
30	"Samvād Prabhakar"	Ditto	700	11th to 18th February 1880.
31	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	14th to 20th ditto.
32	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	13th to 19th ditto.
33	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto	500	17th to 19th ditto.
34	"Prabhāti"	Ditto	13th to 19th ditto.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
35	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	487	13th February 1880.
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
36	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta	365	14th ditto.
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
37	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	500	11th ditto.
38	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	500	12th ditto.
39	"Jagat Mitra"	Ditto	157	18th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
40	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	13th ditto.

POLITICAL.

SANACHAR,
February 9th, 1880.

Lord Beaconsfield and the treaty-
making power of the Crown.

WE extract the following observations from an article in the *Sahachar*, of the 9th February, headed the "Error of Lord Beaconsfield:"—Within the last two or three years the present Prime Minister has made treaties with two Mahomedan powers. The object of both measures is the defence of the British Empire against the encroachments of Russia. The question is, how far is this object likely to be attained by the means adopted? Lord Beaconsfield will earn the gratitude or deserve the censure of the people according as these measures meet with success or with failure. According to Mr. Gladstone, there is not the least chance of success. Lord Beaconsfield, however, does not appear to have perceived his error; how otherwise would the proposal to conclude a separate treaty with Persia be at all possible with his cabinet? He is said to be contemplating a defensive alliance with that power against Russia, the basis of which, of course, will be the taking of Herat by the British Government. A quadruple alliance between England, Turkey, Afghanistan, and Persia might indeed prove beneficial to the empire, were it not that the conditions on which Lord Beaconsfield would agree to it are simply impracticable. In concluding the Anglo-Turkish Convention and the treaty of Gundamuk, perfectly reasonable that Turkey and Afghanistan, which are both in great danger from the aggressiveness of Russia, should be induced to place themselves under English protection, which was, however, granted them only on condition of their making over certain portions of territory to England. Cyprus was acquired in this way from Turkey, and the Kurrum valley from Afghanistan, while the Sultan was further asked to introduce reforms in Asia Minor. All this seemed perfectly reasonable, for in the arrangements each party was justly entitled to reap some advantage. But what has been the effect in practice? The treaty of Gundamuk has ceased to exist. Russia, against which the Anglo-Turkish Convention was made, now commands greater influence in Constantinople than England. This is enough to show that the object of Lord Beaconsfield's two treaties has not been attained; and it is almost certain that a treaty with Persia on conditions such as those referred to will lead to similar results. Moreover, the concessions demanded by Lord Beaconsfield's Government from Turkey were such as were then not clearly in her power to agree to. In the depressed condition of her exchequer, it was not possible for Turkey to undertake any costly reforms, as far as the administration of Asia Minor was concerned. Similarly, at the time of concluding the treaty of Gundamuk, Yakub Khan was so powerless that he could not be expected to protect the British Residency from any harm. Still, in both cases, the policy of Lord Beaconsfield forced Government to put some pressure on these weak States. The consequence has been that Turkey has been compelled to seek the protection of Russia; and Yakub, too, would have followed the same course, had he been allowed to retain his independence for some time longer. The policy of uniting all the Mahomedan powers against Russia is indeed a reasonable one, but what is to be regretted is that in carrying out this policy into practice old Disraeli has had recourse to wrong means. If the success of the policy be really desired, the independence of these Mahomedan powers should not be interfered with; on the contrary, they should be convinced that the British Government is always anxious to see them independent. Otherwise they will not listen to the advice of the British Government, and will care little whether it is England or Russia which devours them, so long as it is their fate to become a prey to either.

2. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 10th February, does not know

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
February 10th, 1880.

The professions and practice of Government.

whether to laugh or cry in presence of the inconsistencies which are noticed in the professions and practice of Government. At one moment a person earning Rs. 100 a year is regarded as being far removed from poverty, and hardly two days have passed away when the authorities seem to be in doubt as to whether one enjoying an income of Rs. 300 may be placed in this class. At one moment the native papers are declared to be intensely seditious, while at another Government is charmed with their loyalty. Extremely unwilling at one moment to impose a direct tax, at another Government seeks an opportunity for putting on a tax on incomes. It maintains that India is governed for its own good, but in practice has reduced the salt duties and remitted the import duty on Manchester piece-goods, and is about to enact a law for the regulation of the Indian factories. The Afghan war was at first said to have been entered upon for the purpose of strengthening the frontiers of India; it is now looked upon as a war for keeping up the glory and prestige of England in Europe. We need not multiply instances. Such painful disagreement between the professions and practice of Government is not certainly becoming. It lessens their prestige, while shaking the confidence of the people in them.

3. It appears, says the *Sulabha Samachar*, from a telegram just

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
February 14th, 1880.

Cabul affairs.

received that the eyes of the Secretary of State have at length been opened. He has

declared that a permanent occupation of Cabul is an impossibility. We said the same thing before. The strength of the north-western frontier of India depends on the existence of an independent Afghanistan. There is, however, now such anarchy in that country, that there is little hope of re-establishing the kingdom on its old footing. The whole policy of Lord Beaconsfield has now been cast to the winds, and his talents do not seem to be equal to the occasion. He is well up in the art of producing imposing illusions.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

4. We regret, says the *Bharat Mihir* of the 10th February, that we

BHARAT MIHIR,
February 10th, 1880.

Sir Ashley Eden at the Trades' dinner.

are not able to draw as hopeful a picture of the condition of Bengal as that drawn by Sir Ashley Eden at the Trades' dinner. We

know our own affairs, and it is our duty to describe them truthfully. Now, as regards an immunity from famines and pestilences, Bengal has been fortunate, and the condition of her people may be regarded as being one of prosperity. We must, however, remark with regret that the license-tax has not proved less oppressive than either a famine or a pestilence. On this point His Honor remained silent. It was not, however, unknown to him that the limit of taxable income was subsequently raised only because the limit first fixed upon had been found to cause hardship. It would have been well if he had mentioned this. As it was, his speech did not show that Government had ever made any mistake or had been wrong in any matter. There would have been, of course, no ground for complaint if, while dwelling on the bright side of the administration of Bengal during last year, Sir Ashley Eden had likewise referred to the blunders committed by Government during the same period.

Referring to that portion of the speech in which Sir Ashley Eden adverted to the proposed extension of railways in Bengal, the editor remarks:—The Lieutenant-Governor has always been favourable to the extension of railways in this province, but as the prosecution of public works is not at present possible with Government, His Honor desires to empower

the District Road Cess Committees to undertake the construction of railway lines from the funds at their disposal. It is likely that the rates at which the cess is levied will be enhanced. Now this arrangement, although it may bring the people the advantages of a railway communication, will not redound to the credit of Government, while it will cause the former great hardship. This indeed is an ingenuous contrivance, whereby the Imperial Government will be enabled to appropriate the funds which have been placed at the disposal of the local Government for the prosecution of public works, and to avoid the necessity of showing an increase of expenditure in its accounts. The proceeds of the ferry fund, from which roads used to be formerly constructed, have been similarly appropriated.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
February 11th, 1880.

5. The *Hindu Ranjiká*, of the 11th February, thus comments upon the speech of Sir Ashley Eden at the Trades' dinner:—Owing to our ill-luck we do not obtain as much as we expect from Sir Ashley. His Honor has long been in this country, and has seen much of our manners and customs, happiness and misery, but it is to be regretted that he does not carefully reflect upon our true condition—upon the changes which have passed over us. His Honor, for instance, does not believe that the license-tax of last year sorely harassed us. There were other causes also which gave us trouble. Many were pinched with distress arising from high prices. Although there were not any marked changes of policy to cause unrest, still the ordinary changes made by Government were not a little productive of hardship. Nor is the state of things decidedly for the better this year. High prices and other causes of distress still continue.

MEDINI,
February 11th, 1880.

6. The *Medini*, of the 11th February, remarks, in reference to the report of the Indian Law Commission, that the proposal to make the English law the basis of all future legislation in this country is open to considerable objection. Of course, the members of the Commission are not totally unmindful of the importance of so altering the laws which are thus to be framed as to meet the requirements of native habits, manners, and usages. Still it is not wise to make the English law only, which itself is admittedly in need of vast improvement, the main basis of Indian laws. The primary duty of the Indian legislator should be to lay hold on those fundamental principles common to the laws of every nation which are recognized by the jurists of every country, and after securing such a basis, to make such additions and alterations as may become necessary to meet the requirements of the people. An exclusive adherence to English law, uninfluenced by reason or justice, would only be too likely to lead to injurious consequences. The laws which would be framed on this method would be unintelligible to the mass of the people, including even the educated few; and their introduction could not but revolutionize society, enrich the legal practitioners, and equally impoverish the ignorant. As a case in point, we may take the introduction of the system of trial by jury into this country. Although, even in England, the system has not been always free from faults, still on the whole it has there proved beneficial. But in India the practice of trial by jury or assessors often leads to erroneous decisions, and Government has been obliged to employ different means to prevent this result. Nor is this to be wondered at. Men are called upon to pronounce upon the guilt or innocence of their fellows, who have never seen a trial or weighed any conflicting evidence in their life. There is also always an unwillingness shown by the people to serve on the jury. There are certain other matters which, like this jury system, have been imported into the Indian law, and have equally proved a failure.

MEDINI,
February 11th, 1880.

7. A correspondent of the same paper remarks that, in spite of the declaration of Government that persons earning Rs. 100 a year are to be exempted from liability to the License Tax, and the agitation made in this connection in the newspapers and by public speakers, in practice the inhabitants in the Mofussil have not been everywhere informed by beat of drum or otherwise of this concession. What activity was not shown when the assessments were first made! But now the darogahs in charge of police stations did not think it necessary to direct the village chowkidars to make known the fact of exemption to those concerned. When the latter did come to know what had happened, it was too late to obtain refunds.

8. The *Navavibhakar* holds that although on the aggregate there has been of late years a steady increase of population in India, owing to the security of life and property enjoyed under a strong and beneficent Government and to other causes, still the malarious fever has carried off large numbers. An increase of population, again, is not a phenomenon which is to be contemplated with unmixed gratification. The food-supply becomes limited and poverty increases; and with poverty come disease and premature deaths. In face of this fact, it behoves Government either to use means for promoting the fertility of the soil or remitting taxation. Of the two, the latter course is not altogether impracticable.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
February 16th, 1880.

9. Now that there has been an improvement, says the same paper, in the finances of Government, this is the time to abolish the License Tax. By doing this Government will be exceedingly popular. There would not be, however, any necessity for this suggestion were the proceeds of the tax devoted to the construction of public works.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

10. The same paper observes that, under the influence of the teaching of Lord Beaconsfield and his followers, Sir Ashley Eden has become exceedingly impatient of criticism. In the course of his speech at the 'Trades' dinner he sought to discredit the opponents of the ministerial policy in England who have urged on the Indian Government the necessity of reducing its public expenditure. Sir Ashley spoke of their ignorance of Indian finance. Whatever His Honor may say, it is fortunate that we have such philanthropic and experienced statesmen in England to discuss Indian affairs.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

EDUCATION.

11. The *Sahachar*, of the 9th February, contains an article headed the "Calcutta School Book Society." It is observed that this institution, which has done so much useful work, is not viewed with favour by Mr. Croft, the Director of Public Instruction, who has expressed a desire to discontinue its monthly Government grant of Rs. 500. This is indeed to be regretted. That at this time of financial deficit Mr. Croft should seek to lighten the charges incurred by Government is of course reasonable, but does it behove a Director of Public Instruction to practise economy in a manner which cannot but injure the interests of education? The abolition—for this is what Mr. Croft's action will lead to—of this most useful institution will doubtless injure the public interests. Mr. Croft will be soon able to perceive his error if he but consults the experienced members of the committee. There has been indeed great mismanagement, resulting in loss, under Mr. Andrews, but that certainly does not warrant the adoption of

SAHACHAR,
February 9th, 1880.

any steps which may lead to the abolition of the Society. We may question the propriety of appointing Mr. Brown—himself a bookseller, and who has his own business to attend to—as Secretary in place of Mr. Andrews. He is seldom able to attend the office of the Society, whose interests, again, conflict with his own. Books have not been regularly sent into the Mofussil since he was made Secretary. The appointment of Mr. Brown, although a temporary arrangement, has been exceedingly unwise.

MEDINI,
February 11th, 1880.

12. The *Medini*, of the 11th February, writes a long article on Archdeacon Baly's minute on Eurasian education. The following is a summary of the editor's views:—Native newspapers are occasionally

The education of Eurasians and East Indians.

taken to task for the strictures which they often pass on the actions of Government. A little reflection will show why, in spite of the benefits conferred on them by the British Government, the benefactor is so constantly abused. The fact is that the great men who have done lasting good to this country are no more; their great deeds are now matters of the past. Those, however, who are now working in the midst of the people, and whose actions they are called on to criticize, are made of different stuff. A desire to do good to the people is now seldom noticed, while justice has almost departed from this country. What an inauspicious period was inaugurated the day on which Her Majesty assumed the Imperial title. The rights of the people have been gradually curtailed, while they have been saddled with increasing taxation. And now the proceeds of these taxes, it would seem, are to be expended for the advancement of Europeans.

The writer is not opposed to advancement of the Eurasians. What he would object to is that, considering their numerical strength and the amount they pay in the shape of taxes, Government should be anxious to contribute more liberally towards the expenses of their education than it does for the behoof of the other sections of the people. The existing schools for Eurasian children are sufficient to meet their educational needs. If Eurasian parents are not careful regarding the education of their children, it is no reason why Government should increase the number of schools at an increased cost. In their habits and dispositions most of these men, the East Indians, more resemble natives than Europeans. The task which Government is about to attempt—it is nothing less than supplying the means of education to an ever-increasing community—is extremely difficult, and is likely to prove very costly. It will aggravate the burdens of the people for the benefit of a section thereof, who are even now more favoured in the matter of patronage and State support than the others. The editor advocates a scheme of colonization for the more destitute among the Eurasians and East Indians.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
February 13th, 1880.

13. Regarding the manner in which the appointment of examiners is made by the authorities of the Calcutta University, the *Education Gazette*, of the 13th February, complains that the Registrar and the Director have it much in their own way, without regard to the wishes of the other members of the Syndicate. Such usurpation of power on their part is improper. Now that the time for selecting examiners for next year is drawing nigh, it is to be hoped that the matter will receive due attention. Another point deserves consideration. In appointing examiners the practice now is to select only such as are connected with some or other educational institution, generally in exclusion of those who, although not possessing this qualification, are yet perfectly fitted for the work of an examiner. This is not fair either to the examinees, who are, in the present state of things, more anxious to get by heart the "notes" of the examiner selected than to master his subject, or to the persons who are thus excluded from being selected examiners. In

The Calcutta University. The appointment of examiners.

this connection it is also worthy of note that, according to certain educational authorities, none but Government servants are entitled to become examiners, even in the minor scholarship and normal school examinations.

14. Referring to the proposal made by Mr. Croft to discontinue the monthly grant of Rs. 500 to the Calcutta School Book Society, the *Samalochak*, of the 13th February, approves of Mr. Croft's action in this matter, as also the suspension of Mr. Andrews, the Secretary. The latter should now retire. If the post of Secretary were conferred upon some native gentleman, it is likely that, even without the Government aid, the affairs of the Society might be managed with efficiency. In this way alone would the abuses which have crept into its administration be removed. Those that have dwelt upon the former usefulness of this institution apparently forget that it is itself to blame for its present condition. In the matter of supplying vernacular works, the Sanskrit Press Depository and similar firms have almost monopolized this business, thus injuriously affecting the usefulness of the Society. To make it once more what it ought to be, the office of the Society should be removed to College Street, and arrangements made to keep up a supply of vernacular works. The former step will save expense and ensure larger profits. Instead of a salaried Secretary, one should be appointed who will be allowed a share in the profits.

SAMALOKHAK,
February 13th, 1880.

15. Referring to the correspondence on the subject of Zenana Missions between the Missionary Societies and the Director of Public Instruction, the *Arya Darpan*, of the 13th February, remarks that most of the females engaged in teaching the inmates of the zenana are not qualified for their work. It is impossible to procure the services of competent lady teachers on the low pay which is allowed by these missionaries. The Free Church and the Bhowanipore Missions, however, are more liberal in this respect, and their example ought to be followed by others engaged in the work of zenana education in this country. Another point which calls for remark is whether the conductors of the Zenana Missions are forced to extend the field of their operations, and thus employ an ill-qualified agency, in consequence of pressure from home to show good results. The missionaries deny it, and maintain that a demand really exists for female education. The editor also is of this opinion, and asks that Government should augment its grant to the Missions, in order to enable the conductors to entertain well-paid and well-qualified lady teachers.

ARYA DARPAN,
February 13th, 1880.

16. On the same subject, the *Sulabha Samachar* of the 14th February, while admitting that much has been done to popularize female education by the Christian missionaries, is nevertheless of opinion that the education imparted to the inmates of the zenana by the lady teachers is very imperfect and superficial. There is, however, reason to believe that this state of things is due to the smallness of the funds at the disposal of the missionaries. Regarding these teachers it is observed that they mostly belong to the lowest classes of native society, and cannot therefore do much good, and that they seek more to make the pupils converts to Christianity than to teach them to read and write. They particularly ingratiate themselves with young Hindu widows by holding out to them inducements of marriage.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
February 14th, 1880.

17. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 16th February, contains an article on the Calcutta School Book Society. The views expressed therein are similar to those noticed in paragraph 11.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
February 16th, 1880.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SADHARANI,
February 15th, 1880.

18. The *Sādhārani*, of the 15th February, laughs at the efforts that are being made by a few wealthy and inactive natives to bring about a brotherly intercourse between Europeans and the people of this country. These men give costly balls and parties in honour of Europeans, who of course can have no objection in partaking of the good cheer which is provided for them, but all the while laugh in their sleeves at the foolishness of the hosts. A few Englishmen also are labouring to bring about an amity between the two races. They, however, seek to do this by writing in newspapers and making speeches, and not by any means which would cost them anything. The fact is the intercourse which is sought is simply impossible. In their colour, manners, dress, physique, wealth, power, habits of work, and political status, the one race differs from another. It is therefore idle to expect that any brotherly feelings will spring up so long as natives remain what they are. Such feelings can exist only between equals.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 21st February 1880.